

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendment, the claims will be 6 to 11.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

In this regard, new claim 6 combines previous claims 1 and 2.

New claims 7 and 8 are based on previous claims 4 and 5 but depend on new claim 6.

New claim 9 is based on a combination of claims 1 and 3.

New claims 10 and 11 are based on claims 4 and 5 but depend on new claim 9.

The significance of these claims will become further apparent from the remarks below.

The rejection of claim 3 as indefinite is inapplicable to the present claims which clarify where the acrylic powder is added.

Claims 1 and 3 to 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Specification No. 10-046086.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention (claims 6 to 8) relates to a monoazo lake pigment obtained from a laked pigment aqueous slurry prepared by conducting coupling of a specific diazo component and a coupler component and conducting laking after or simultaneously with the coupling, wherein 1) the laking is carried out in the presence of a predetermined amount of a water-soluble acrylic polymer and 2) the monoazo lake pigment is surface-treated by further adding a predetermined amount of a water-soluble acrylic polymer to the laked pigment aqueous slurry.

Further, the present invention (claims 9 to 11) relates to a monoazo lake pigment prepared by filtering and drying a laked pigment aqueous slurry produced by coupling of a specific diazo component and a coupler component and conducting laking after or simultaneously with the coupling, wherein the 1) laking is carried out in the presence of a predetermined amount of a water-soluble acrylic polymer and 2) a predetermined amount of a powder of a water-soluble acrylic polymer is further added and mixed to/with the separated and dried monoazo lake pigment.

As shown in Table 1 of the present specification, Examples 2 and 5, in which the water-soluble acrylic polymer was added at the time of laking and the water-soluble acrylic polymer was further added to the laked aqueous slurry, and Examples 3 and 6, in which the water-soluble acrylic polymer was added at the time of laking and the water-soluble acrylic polymer was further added to the pigment obtained by filtering and drying the laked aqueous slurry, showed remarkably improved flowability and resistance to clogging of a printing plate, when compared with Examples 1 and 4 in which the water-soluble acrylic polymer was added only at the time of laking.

JPA 10-46086 only discloses that component (A) and component (B) are added in any of the production processes of azo lake pigments. However, JPA 10-46086 does not disclose or suggest that the water-soluble acrylic polymer is added at the laking time and is further added in a step carried out after the laking, i.e., the water-soluble acrylic polymer is added in two steps, as disclosed and claimed by the present application.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Specification No. 10-046086 as applied to claims 1 and 3 to 5 above, and further in view of Japanese Patent Specification No. 07-292274.

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

JPA 7-292274 only discloses a method in which the water-soluble acrylic polymer is added to a water slurry of a monoazo lake pigment. JPA 7-292274 does not disclose or suggest the addition of water-soluble acrylic polymer in two steps per the monoazo lake pigment of the present invention.

Moreover, each of the above cited references does not at all teach the above-discussed advantageous functions and effects of the monozo lake pigment of the present invention.

Therefore, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art could not arrive at the pigment composition of the present invention or appreciate the functions and effects thereof from a consideration of the cited references, alone or combined.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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